



Department of Homeland Security Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 03 April 2003

Current Nationwide
Threat Level is



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www.whitehouse.gov/homeland

Daily Overview

- The Washington Post reports that despite a billion-plus government aid proposal, the airline industry's crisis deepened yesterday with more layoffs, another bankruptcy, a jet quarantined over suspicions of a deadly disease aboard and a widening perception of a prolonged war in Iraq. (See item [7](#))
- The Associated Press reports the names, addresses and phone numbers of more than 210 businesses, along with what radioactive materials each is licensed to have, were on eight state-owned computers recently stolen in New Mexico. (See item [22](#))
- The Oregonian reports al Neda, the online propaganda unit of al Qaeda, hacked into the Web site of a Portland State University graduate student, in a wave of Internet hackings in support of al Qaeda. (See item [23](#))
- The General Accounting Office has released its report GAO-03-233 titled "Critical Infrastructure Protection: Challenges for Selected Agencies and Industry Sectors." (See item [26](#))

DHS/IAIP Update *Fast Jump*

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Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: High, Cyber: High

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://esisac.com>]

April 01, New York Times — **Pipeline company to pay \$34 million for spills.** The government announced today that an Atlanta-based pipeline company would pay \$34 million in fines under the Clean Water Act, the largest civil penalty ever paid by a company in the 32-year history of the Environmental Protection Agency. **The Colonial Pipeline Company, which owns a 5,500-mile underground pipeline that stretches from Texas to New York City, was charged in November 2000 with gross negligence that contributed to seven spills that released a total of 1.45 million gallons of oil.** The largest, which took place in South Carolina in 1996, spilled almost a million gallons that traveled 34 miles down the Reedy River and killed 35,000 fish. The company paid a \$7 million criminal fine in 1999. Colonial Pipeline, which is privately held, transports more refined petroleum products than any other company in the world. **It moves approximately 20 percent of what is produced in the United States.** The pipeline, about 40 years old, snakes through 14 states: Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, Tennessee, South Carolina, North Carolina, Virginia, the District of Columbia, Maryland, New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania.

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/04/02/national/02ENVI.html>

2. *April 01, Reuters* — **Nevada energy plant to close. Southern California Edison expects to close the 1,580 megawatt Mohave power plant in Nevada at the end of 2005 due to uncertain supplies of coal and water, the company said in a filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission.** Southern California Edison, a subsidiary of energy company Edison International, is majority owner and operator of the plant in Laughlin, NV, **which produces electricity for more than 1.5 million homes in Nevada, Arizona and California.** In its SEC filing Monday, Southern California Edison cited uncertainty over future plant supplies of coal and water from lands in Arizona and Nevada owned by the Navajo Nation and Hopi Tribe. **The utility also said Mohave's owners must spend \$1.1 billion for new pollution-control equipment if Mohave continues to operate past 2005.** Because of these issues, Southern California Edison said "it is probable Mohave will be shut down at the end of 2005."

Source: http://www.energycentral.com/sections/news/nw_article.cfm?id=3746181

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Chemical Sector

Nothing to report.

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

3. *April 02, Washington Times* — **National Guard deployment highest since Korea.** The National Guard was once thought of as weekend warriors, but is now seeing its largest deployment since the Korean War with nearly one-quarter of its troops serving overseas. **In addition to new deployments to Iraq, nearly 100,000 Guard members are serving in Afghanistan, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Kosovo, the Sinai Peninsula and Panama.** "They're scattered all over the place," said John Goheen, spokesman for the National Guard Association of the United States. "They are not sleeping at home any more. They have left their jobs and their families to go around the world on active duty." That leaves more than

300,000 to guard the home front, and 40,000 have already been alerted that they may soon mobilize, but most states have plenty of forces available for homeland security, Goheen said.
Source: <http://www.washingtontimes.com/national/20030402-50912743.htm>

4. *April 02, Department of Defense* — **National Guard and Reserve mobilized as of April 2, 2003.** This week, the Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps each announce an increase of reservists on active duty in support of the partial mobilization. The Army announces a decrease. The net collective result is 2,120 more reservists than last week. At any given time, services may mobilize some units and individuals while demobilizing others, making it possible for these figures to either increase or decrease. **Total number currently on active duty in support of the partial mobilization for the Army National Guard and Army Reserve is 148,450; Naval Reserve 10,782; Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve, 35,123; Marine Corps Reserve, 20,560; and the Coast Guard Reserve, 4,016. This brings the total Reserve and National Guard on active duty to 218,931 including both units and individual augmentees.**

Source: http://www.defenselink.mil/news/Apr2003/b04022003_bt189-03.html

5. *March 31, Christian Science Monitor* — **In Iraq, solar storms play havoc with communication. The military's global-positioning satellite (GPS) network has become its backbone for navigation and the key technology behind a new generation of precision-guided weapons.** One potential source of error lies in the ionized portion of Earth's atmosphere, which begins about 30 miles up and through which GPS signals must pass, researchers say. **Turbulence in the ionosphere can cause GPS satellite signals to strengthen and fade—sometimes to the point where receivers lose the signals completely.** At sundown the lower ionosphere grows less dense than the overlying layers, triggering "bubbles" that rise and generate turbulences that move through the surrounding ionosphere. **The Air Force has established a global network of 12 ground-based sensors, which can detect the effect. One is located in the Gulf region.** Each day, the Pentagon's Central Command gets a briefing on conditions the network observes, notes David Anderson, a research associate with the University of Colorado's Cooperative Institute for Research in Environmental Sciences. Dr. Anderson notes that **the Air Force Research Laboratory has developed a computer system that allows users to identify other satellites on orbit whose signal paths aren't affected, so that an operator can switch communications to a different satellite.**

Source: <http://www.csmonitor.com/2003/0331/p15s01-woiq.html>

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Banking and Finance Sector

Nothing to report.

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Transportation Sector

6. *April 02, Associated Press* — **Denver transit strike looms as talks move.** Negotiations to avoid a crippling transit strike continued past a strike deadline early Wednesday after both sides

reported progress. **The Amalgamated Transit Union's 1,900 drivers, light rail operators and mechanics had been poised to go on strike at midnight Tuesday, but spokesmen for the union and the Regional Transportation District said they were closing in on a deal.** "Both sides say they are close to an agreement and they're continuing to work on it," RTD spokesman Scott Reed said. Reed said some major issues had been settled but he would not elaborate. The union made an offer late Tuesday centering on work rules and health insurance, rather than wages, and RTD made a counteroffer, Minshall said. **A walkout would affect thousands of Denver-area commuters who ride RTD buses and trains. The transit agency serves seven Denver-area counties and logs 250,000 passenger trips every weekday, including about 35,000 on the light rail trains.** If there is a strike, RTD said it would be able to provide only 35 percent of its normal service using private contractors. Light rail trains and regional and express buses serving the suburbs probably wouldn't run.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A7725-2003Apr2.html>

7. *April 02, Washington Post* — **War, fear of new illness add to airline problems. Even as a \$3 billion-plus government aid proposal gained momentum, the airline industry's crisis deepened yesterday with more layoffs, another bankruptcy, a jet quarantined over suspicions of a deadly disease aboard and a widening perception of a prolonged war in Iraq.** United Airlines said it expects to lay off more pilots and Continental Airlines said it needed to eliminate more than the 1,200 jobs it announced last month that it would cut. United Airlines, which is in U.S. bankruptcy court protection, assured its customers that its code-share partner will continue its normal schedule. American Airlines, which narrowly avoided having to file for protection on Monday, yesterday briefly quarantined one of its flights in California after passengers and crew were suspected of having symptoms of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS). None had the disease, officials said. **The war with Iraq has had a greater impact on business than airlines expected. Last month, the Air Transport Association estimated that passenger travel would drop about 8 percent, but domestic traffic has declined about 10 percent. Advance bookings are off 30 to 40 percent.** Half the U.S. jobs lost since the terrorist attacks in September 2001 have been in aviation and travel, according to the Air Transport Association. The trade group said the industry, its suppliers and related businesses account for about 8 percent of the gross domestic product.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A6023-2003Apr1.html>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

8. *April 02, Agence France-Presse* — **Macapagal orders tighter port security against SARS. President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo on Wednesday ordered tighter security in all ports to keep a pneumonia strain from the Philippines.** "We must try to keep out the disease as much as possible while keeping an eye on sustaining normal, commercial and immigration activities," Macapagal told reporters. She ordered Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit to put up medical security measures in all ports to ensure potential carriers of the severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) virus go through medical quarantine. **"We already have good security at Manila airport, but these same security measures must be brought to our major ports so that seafarers can also be checked," she added.**

Source: http://www.inq7.net/nat/2003/apr/03/nat_2-1.htm

9. *April 01, South Florida Sun–Sentinel* — **Port puts security on fast track after audit questions safety status. Broward, FL officials have speeded up their efforts to improve security at Port Everglades after a recent audit by state law enforcement questioned how prepared the port is to prevent a terrorist attack.** The critical audit detailed areas where the port was not in compliance with the state's seaport security regulations and its own security plan. **The county is in the process of spending more than \$37 million to improve security at Port Everglades.** But construction on key parts of the plan, a blast wall to seal off the perimeter and permanent security gates, has yet to begin.
Source: <http://www.sun-sentinel.com/news/local/broward/sfl-csecurity01apr01.0.5084582.story?coll=sfla-news-broward>
10. *April 01, Associated Press* — **U.S. Coast Guard will escort foreign tankers in the Chesapeake Bay. An intensive maritime security operation will be launched this year to guide a foreign tanker carrying liquefied natural gas (LNG) up the Chesapeake Bay and within three miles of the Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plant in Maryland. The tanker will be the first in two decades to take the 8–to–10 hour trip up the bay to the reactivated Cove Point liquefied natural gas facility in Calvert, MD. As many as 40 LNG tankers a year are expected to call on the facility after operations resume.** The security operation will begin four days before the tanker reaches bay waters. The Coast Guard will be notified and will begin cross-checking crew members and passengers against terrorist watch lists. An armed Coast Guard team will stop the tanker as it approaches the Chesapeake from the Atlantic Ocean at Cape Henry and inspect the vessel. The Coast Guard then will form a safety zone around the tanker, making sure no other vessels come near. The web of security, which probably will include air surveillance, will be drawn tighter as the tanker approaches the Calvert shoreline.
Source: http://www.wusatv9.com/news/news_article.asp?storyid=16575

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Agriculture Sector

11. *April 02, Associated Press* — **After years of drought, heavy rain threatens Georgia's sweet onions. Cale Blocker has often prayed for rain during his seven–year farming career, which included a four–year drought. Now he's praying for the rain to stop so he and Georgia's other 134 registered Vidalia growers can protect the \$80 million crop of sweet onions from diseases that proliferate during prolonged wet periods.** A cold snap wiped out half the crop last year, so growers were relieved when they escaped serious damage from another frigid blast this January. It appeared they might have a banner year until an almost daily deluge of rain began in early March. **Now their fields are too wet to support equipment that could spray chemicals to fight the destructive bacteria and fungi that attack onions. There are already sporadic reports of damage.**
Source: <http://edition.cnn.com/2003/WEATHER/04/02/vidalia.threat.ap/>
12. *April 02, WRAL* — **Emergency funding to help state monitor deadly poultry disease. Tuesday, Governor Mike Easley granted the North Carolina Department of Agriculture more than \$260,000 in emergency funds to help monitor for Exotic Newcastle Disease. An outbreak of the disease has entered its sixth month in California, where 600 full time state and**

federal workers are fighting it. "We feel like we are potentially 24 hours away from a potentially infectious bird that could be in California today and could be in North Carolina tomorrow," said Dr. David Marshall, a state veterinarian. USDA secretary Ann Veneman has declared the outbreak an extraordinary emergency. **The new funds in North Carolina will allow for more testing, investigators and surveillance.**

Source: <http://www.wral.com/news/2084783/detail.html>

13. *April 02, Expatica.com* — **Chicken culling intensified. In the latest attempt to stem the month-long avian flu outbreak hitting the Dutch poultry sector, the Agriculture Minister Cees Veerman announced Wednesday precautionary culling would be carried out at a further 130 farms in the Gelderland Valley. Veerman told Parliament in a letter that the extra culling of about two million birds was essential to prevent further spreading of the "bird flu". Ministry workers have already killed some nine million chickens. The number of new incidents of avian flu is not declining despite the fact that the Gelderland Valley has largely been cleared of poultry and the birds on infected or suspect farms are now being killed within 24 hours of the alert being raised.**

Source: <http://www.expatica.com/index.asp?pad=2,18.>>

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Food Sector

Nothing to report.

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Water Sector

Nothing to report.

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Public Health Sector

14. *April 02, Reuters* — **Britain launches new public health agency. A major new agency to protect public health has started work in Britain, backed by 2,700 staff and an annual budget of 175 million.** The Health Protection Agency, which came into being April 1, is taking over the functions of the Public Health Laboratory Service, and three other national bodies for radiological protection, microbiology, and chemical incidents. **Speaking at the launch on Wednesday, the agency's chief executive Dr. Pat Troop said its creation would enable health professionals to be better prepared to tackle increasingly complex threats from infections and environmental hazards.** "New diseases appearing for the first time in different parts of the world underline the need for a modern surveillance system that can not only manage existing problems, but pick up and respond to new ones," she said. "And the specter of the deliberate release of chemical, biological, nuclear and radiological agents means we will need all the skills and expertise of the agency to ensure a coherent and rapid co-ordinated response, based on sound planning."

Source: <http://reuters.com/newsArticle.jhtml?type=healthNews=2495436>

15. *April 02, Stuff.co* — **China reports sharp rise in SARS deaths.** The southern province of Guangdong, China where Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) first appeared in November, said yesterday the disease killed nine more people in March, taking the nationwide toll to at least 43. A further 361 people were infected in the same month, said a statement from the Guangdong government, which issued figures for only the third time since the outbreak began late last year. In total, nearly 1,200 people have been infected in China, more than half of all global cases. Shanghai said yesterday it was investigating its first suspected case. The new figures from Guangdong, where the great majority of China's known cases have occurred, took the number of infections officially reported in China to 1,167. The March infection figure was smaller than the 487 in February and the number of deaths in March was substantially lower than the 26 the previous month. **The provincial government said a breakdown showed the number of cases appeared to be declining with 145 in early March, 128 in the middle of the month and 88 late last month.**

Source: <http://www.stuff.co.nz/stuff/0,2106,2375893a12,00.html>

16. *April 02, Associated Press* — **Mystery illness raises concerns in U.S.** A scare over a mystery illness on an airliner in California turned out to be a false alarm, but the cautious reaction by officials suggested that serious concerns about the disease have made their way to U.S. shores. **An American Airlines flight from Tokyo that landed in San Jose, CA was briefly halted on the tarmac after the captain reported five people on board appeared to have symptoms of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS). None of the five turned out to have the disease,** which has been blamed for about 2,200 cases and at least 78 deaths worldwide. Seventy cases of the illness are suspected in the United States, but no one has died. It was the first time a plane was stopped in the United States for fear of passengers spreading the disease, and some passengers and health officials suggested it may have been unnecessary. Authorities throughout the U.S. have taken steps short of quarantines to try to contain the illness. **U.S. health authorities are handing out warning cards to travelers who arrive by plane or ship from Asia, including those who may have passed through infected countries. The cards advise them to monitor their health for at least 10 days because of possible exposure to SARS.**

Source: http://abcnews.go.com/wire/US/ap20030402_979.html

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Government Sector

17. *April 02, Government Executive* — **FBI to maintain separate information analysis center.** The FBI will maintain a separate information-analysis center even with the creation of a Terrorist Threat Integration Center (TTIC), Attorney General John Ashcroft told a Senate panel on Tuesday. **Though the integration center is expected to be a hub for analyzing all terrorist information collected by the government, Ashcroft said the FBI would continue to conduct separate analysis while gathering and distributing information with the center. "The FBI will maintain its own analysis, but it will provide information to the TTIC,"** Ashcroft told the Senate Appropriations subcommittee that oversees his department. Ashcroft said the TTIC is on track to begin operating May 1, and it would receive \$50 million in fiscal 2004. He was unclear about which appropriations bill would provide the funding. He

said the center initially would operate within the CIA, but a new, independent facility eventually would house the center, which will fuse FBI and CIA counter-terrorism efforts.
Source: <http://www.govexec.com/dailyfed/0403/040103td2.htm>

18. *April 02, New York Times* — **Terrorism panel hears advice on methods of prevention.** The hearing, held in a half-empty auditorium in the United States Custom House in Lower Manhattan, was calmer and less emotional than on Monday, when several victims' relatives and direct witnesses of the attacks spoke. The relatives were among those whose protests led Congress to create the panel last year, and some who attended Monday's hearing angrily blamed government officials for not doing more to prevent the attacks. **Speaking after the hearing ended, Thomas H. Kean, the former New Jersey governor who is the panel chairman, said the goal was not to assign blame but "to write an authoritative story: what happened and why it happened."** The panel of five Republicans and five Democrats is expected to present a report in draft form in May 2004. Kean said that the panel planned to meet about every other week, and that some meetings would be open to the public but that sessions at which the panel reviewed classified documents would not.

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/04/02/international/worldspecial/02HEAR.html>

19. *April 01, Associated Press* — **FBI warns of al Qaeda women. For the first time in the war on terror, the FBI has issued a be-on-the-lookout bulletin for a woman, a Pakistani neurological expert, wanted for questioning in connection with Osama bin Laden's terror network.** Analysts also are examining claims another woman made in an Arab newspaper that she was asked by bin Laden to open training camps for female terrorists. Female attackers, successfully used by other terror organizations such as the Palestinian Al Aqsa Martyrs' Brigade, would represent a major tactical shift for al Qaeda after years of being aligned with the Afghan Taliban regime that oppressed women and considered them unworthy to participate in an Islamic holy war, officials said. **The FBI recently put out a global alert for 31-year-old Aafia Siddiqui, as well as her estranged husband, Dr. Mohammed Khan, 33. It was the first time an FBI bulletin sought a woman since the war against terror began, officials said. The FBI said Siddiqui, who has a doctorate in neurological science from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, might be in Pakistan. She lived in Boston while attending MIT, however, and recently traveled to the Maryland suburbs of Washington, the agency said.** FBI officials said they were not alleging she "is connected to specific terrorist activities," but they wanted to question her about possible contacts with people suspected of terrorist activities. FBI Posters: <http://www.fbi.gov/terrorinfo/siddiqui.htm>

<http://www.fbi.gov/terrorinfo/drkhan.htm>

Source: <http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2003/04/01/attack/main547237.shtml>

20. *April 01, Federal Computer Week* — **Justice budgets for terrorism.** Attorney General John Ashcroft outlined the Justice Department's efforts against terrorism, including programs for information sharing and foreign visitor registrations, at a Senate hearing on the fiscal 2004 budget. In prepared statements, Ashcroft further detailed funding for technology in the department. "Indeed the first and overriding priority of this budget — and of the department — is to protect America from acts of terrorism and bring terrorists to justice," Ashcroft told the Senate Appropriations Committee's Commerce, Justice, State and the Judiciary Subcommittee April 1. **The 2004 budget request includes \$23.3 billion for Justice. The supplemental request for the fiscal 2003 budget, submitted March 25, includes \$500 million for the**

department's counterterrorism fund. This funding would support FBI response capabilities, language translation services and surveillance support, among other missions. Ashcroft did not specifically detail how much is being spent on information technology. However, the attorney general did make reference to some of the department's initiatives in his prepared statement.

Source: <http://www.fcw.com/fcw/articles/2003/0331/web-justice-04-01-03.asp>

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Emergency Services Sector

21. *April 01, Christian Science Monitor* — **Securing the homeland in a 16-hour day.** Los Angeles County sheriff to 10.5 million people, Leroy Baca is a leading steward in the crucial mission of maintaining homeland security, a task that has grown in urgency since the war on Iraq started. **For Baca, as with other police chiefs and sheriffs nationwide, that means seven days a week of ratcheted-up readiness. Now that the war is in full bore, officials are hastening to refine playbooks of logistical responses to attacks on targets ranging from petroleum-tank farms to sports palaces.** There's another component of the job, too. Sheriff Baca spends part of his day engaging in a public-relations campaign, soothing frayed nerves with the calm and grace of a skilled clergyman.

Source: <http://www.csmonitor.com/2003/0401/p04s01-usju.html>

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Information and Telecommunications Sector

22. *April 02, Associated Press* — **Thieves take computers containing details on radioactive material. Eight state-owned computers containing details on all of the New Mexico companies that use radioactive material have been stolen, officials said Tuesday. The names, addresses and phone numbers of more than 210 businesses are contained in the stolen computers, along with what radioactive materials each is licensed to have, said Bill Floyd, manager of the state Environment Department's Radiation Control Bureau. Thieves took the eight computer towers from the bureau's office in Santa Fe either Thursday night or early Friday. While the files are legally accessible to the public, anyone seeking them would need to do so under the Freedom of Information Act, Floyd said. He said he believed the culprits were seeking the machines themselves -- not the data in them.**

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2003/US/Southwest/04/02/radiation.files.a.p/index.html>

23. *April 01, The Oregonian* — **Al Qaeda supporters hack into student's Web site.** The Web site of a Portland State University graduate student was targeted in a wave of Internet hackings supporting al Qaeda. **Files planted in Conrado Salas Cano's personal Web site housed threats against the United States, tributes to the September 11 attacks and purported messages from Osama bin Laden.** The FBI reportedly launched an investigation, and some cyberterrorism followers said it resembled attacks by al Neda, the online propaganda unit of al Qaeda. Josh Devon, an analyst at the Search for International Terrorist Entities Institute, said **some of the pages contain pictures of guns and bomb-making manuals in Arabic. Specific**

plans of future attacks aren't on the site, although Devon said it's possible they use code words to communicate attacks. Since losing their domain name last summer, Devon said al Neda has been hacking into various sites around the globe to spread its message. Once the sites are discovered and shut down, a new al Neda site pops up within 48 hours. News of the Web sites, he said, spreads by word of mouth and in Arabic newspapers.

Source: <http://www.oregonlive.com/business/oregonian/index.ssf?/base/business/1049201902166680.xml>

24. *April 01, Reuters* — Website hoax fans virus panic. A teenager's website hoax about a killer virus that is sweeping Hong Kong sparked panicked food buying and hit financial markets on Tuesday, forcing the government to deny it would isolate the entire territory. "We have no plan to declare Hong Kong an infected area," Director of Health Margaret Chan told reporters. "We have adequate supplies to provide (for) the needs of Hong Kong citizens, and there is no need for any panic run on food." In Hong Kong, 685 people are infected by severe acute respiratory syndrome, also known as SARS, and 16 have died from the virus. The fake website scare fueled dismay in the territory adjoining China's Guangdong province, where the virus is believed to have originated four months ago. The hoaxer copied the format of the public Internet portal of the Mingpao, one of Hong Kong's leading newspapers, and posted a message saying the government would declare the city of seven million "an infected place."

Source: <http://www.wired.com/news/medtech/0,1286,58311,00.html>

25. *March 31, salon.com* — Iraq goes offline. U.S. Tomahawk cruise missiles aimed at destroying Saddam Hussein's propaganda machine reportedly destroyed several satellite dishes and an Internet server housed at Iraq's Ministry of Information building Saturday. Local phone service in the city was also reportedly disrupted by separate missile strikes on two telecommunications switching centers. Yet Babil Online, the home page of an Iraqi newspaper run by Saddam Hussein's son Uday, was still reachable following the bombing. Babil Online may have escaped the attacks because of its physical location — the site appears to be hosted on a server not in Baghdad but in Beirut, Lebanon. Some observers have speculated that the United States left Iraq's Internet infrastructure untouched for the first week of the war in order to maintain communications with potential defectors in the high ranks of Iraq's government and military personnel. But Peter W. Singer, a fellow at the Brookings Institute, said he doubted that preserving Iraq's Internet capabilities was high on the priority lists of U.S. military planners. "Internet access is still limited mostly to elites in the country. The U.S. is mostly concerned about protecting things like water and electricity and bridges," said Singer. He said the mission of Iraq's Information Ministry has been not only to fire up nationalism but also to manipulate world opinion and to raise international protests against the war.

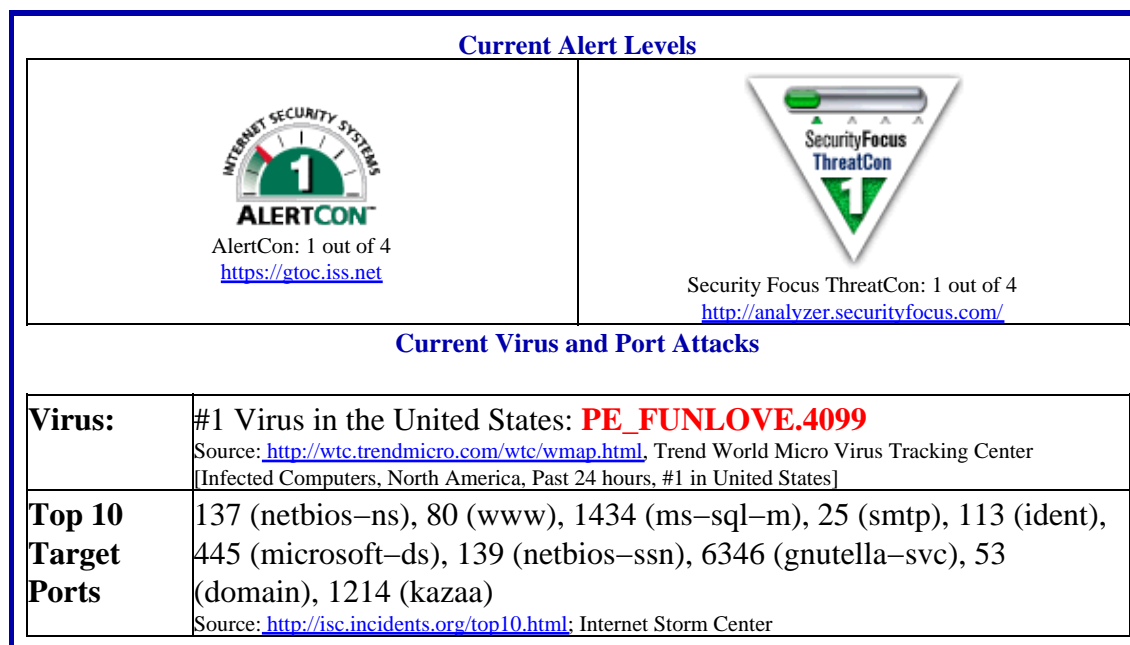
Source: http://www.salon.com/tech/feature/2003/03/31/iraq_offline/index.html

26. *February 28, General Accounting Office* — Critical Infrastructure Protection: Challenges for Selected Agencies and Industry Sectors. The General Accounting Office has released report GAO-03-233 titled "Critical Infrastructure Protection: Challenges for Selected Agencies and Industry Sectors." With computer interconnectivity comes a threat: both physical and cyber assets are potentially vulnerable to computer-based attack. In response, Presidential Decision Directive 63 (PDD 63, May 1998) called for a range of actions to

improve the nation's ability to detect and respond to serious infrastructure attacks. GAO examined four specific agencies—the Departments of Health and Human Services, Energy, and Commerce, and the Environmental Protection Agency—and found that the agencies have made progress in implementing several PDD 63 requirements. However, none of the agencies has fully implemented all requirements. GAO also examined private-sector groups known as Information Sharing and Analysis Centers (ISACs) for five specific industry sectors—information technology, telecommunications, energy, electricity, and water supply. ISACs serve as clearinghouses for their sectors to share information. For other suggested activities, such as establishing baseline statistics on computer security incidents, progress is mixed. **Both the agencies and the ISACs identified challenges and obstacles to undertaking CIP activities. Agency-identified challenges included coordinating security efforts for critical assets with the General Services Administration,** which may often be responsible for protecting agency facilities that house critical assets. **The ISACs identified obstacles to information sharing, both between the sectors and the government and within the sectors.** In particular, they noted concerns that information reported to the government could be subject to public release under the Freedom of Information Act.

Source: <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-03-233>

Internet Alert Dashboard



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General Sector

- 27. April 02, Associated Press — Jordan foils two Iraqi terror plots.** Authorities have foiled two alleged Iraqi plots, including a plan to contaminate water supplies to Jordanian and U.S. troops on the border with Iraq, sources familiar with details of the investigation said Tuesday. **The second alleged plot – in which four Iraqis were arrested last week – allegedly involved plans to bomb a luxury hotel frequented by Americans and other Westerners, including**

about 70 journalists, the sources said, speaking on condition of anonymity. Jordanian Information Minister Mohammad Affash Adwan indicated there had been Iraqi attempts to undermine Jordan's security. "This is purely a security matter, which is being investigated, and I can't discuss it further," Adwan told The Associated Press.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/news/world/iraq/2003-04-01-jordan-foiled-plan_x.htm

28. *April 02, Washington Post* — **U.S. says Colorado men trained in terrorism.** The FBI has evidence that three Denver-area men from Pakistan have been trained in terrorist techniques and pose "a danger to the community," federal prosecutors said today as they sought to hold the men in jail on immigration charges. **An FBI agent told a U.S. magistrate at a bail hearing Monday that one of the defendants, Pakistani citizen Haroon Rashid, had been trained at a terrorist camp in Pakistan and wanted to take part in a jihad, or holy war, against the United States, according to wire service reports.** Rashid's attorney, Anthony Joseph of Denver, denied that, saying his client has no connection with terrorism. But U.S. Magistrate Michael Watanabe ordered that Rashid be held without bail on an immigration charge. **There have been no formal charges of terrorism in the case.** "They're not indicted for anything related to terrorism," said Jeff Dorschner, a spokesman for the U.S. Attorney's Office in Denver. "The evidence on terrorism came up when we asked the judge to deny bail on the immigration charge."

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A6015-2003Apr1.html>

29. *April 02, New York Times* — **Two Algerians convicted in plot to raise money for terrorists.** Two illegal immigrants from Algeria were convicted on Tuesday of plotting to raise money for terror groups that the British police said included al Qaeda. **Brahim Benmerzouga, 31, and Baghdad Meziane, 31, were found guilty after a five-day jury trial in Leicester Crown Court and were both sentenced to 11 years in prison. They are the first people in Britain to be found guilty of being part of the Qaeda network.** The two had been arrested in an early morning raid on their home in the Midlands city by anti-terrorist police officers two weeks after the Sept. 11 attacks in the United States. **Also captured was Kamal Daoudi, said to be an explosives and computer expert for al Qaeda, who was implicated in a planned attack on the United States embassy in Paris. He was later extradited to France, where he is awaiting trial on terrorism charges with another Qaeda suspect, Djamel Beghal.** The court heard that Benmerzouga and Meziane helped run an international credit card fraud scheme aimed at raising money for terrorist organizations. The pair worked together in a local factory and used numerous false identities to hide their connection to terror cells in Europe.

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/04/02/international/worldspecial/2/02FRAU.html>

30. *April 01, Associated Press* — **Yemen arrests 11 with suspected tied to al Qaeda.** Eleven people with suspected links to the al Qaeda terror network – including two of the government's most-wanted terror suspects – have been arrested in various parts of Yemen, a security official said Tuesday. **The 11 suspects were arrested in various parts of Yemen on Friday and now are detained in the intelligence prison in the capital, San'a, the official said on condition of anonymity.** An Interior Ministry bulletin said Tuesday that two men wanted by the government were arrested last week, but further details were not available. The arrests came amid tightened security in Yemen following the outbreak of the war in Iraq and U.S. warnings of possible terror attacks on American interests in Yemen.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/news/world/2003-04-01-yemen-arrests_x.htm

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